

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application..

1. **(Original)** A method for designing an application, comprising:
 - (a) receiving metadata and a policy;
 - (b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy;and
 - (c) creating the application through the user-interface.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface supports a design surface with a toolbox and wherein the toolbox has a plurality of available components.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein (c) comprises:
 - (i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage having at least one component selected from the plurality of available components of the toolbox.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein (c) comprises:
 - (i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the representation is displayed in a graphical format.
6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:
 - (i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage having at least one component.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) categorizing each component to one of a plurality of stages.
8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage includes a first component and a second component, and wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) determining an ordering of the first component and the second component.
9. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) determining a cardinality of the stage.
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein one of the at least one component is associated with a plurality of properties.
11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein (c) further comprises:
 - (ii) selecting one of the plurality of properties.
12. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:
 - (i) discovering the at least one component that resides on a computer, the computer supporting the user-interface.
13. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (c) further comprises:
 - (ii) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy.
14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein the representation of the application is expressed as an extensible markup language (XML) file.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) in response to (ii), executing a plurality of computer-executable instructions.
16. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iii) determining whether an error exists in the representation.
17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein (c) further comprises:
- (iv) in response to (iii), indicating a determined component and a determined stage corresponding to the error.
18. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:
- (ii) selecting a matched component from the plurality components, the matched component first matching a document being processed.
19. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:
- (ii) determining whether the plurality of components shall be sequentially ordered.
20. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:
- (i) receiving a command from the user:
- (ii) in response to (i), indicating whether the command corresponds to a permitted operation for manipulating a representation of the application.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:
 - (i) selecting the policy from a plurality of policies.
22. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium storing ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.
23. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium storing ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 3.
24. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium storing ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 12.
25. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium storing ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 18.
26. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium storing ~~having~~ computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 19.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A system for designing an application, comprising:

a policy module that stores metadata, the metadata representing a set of rules that is associated with the application;

a user-interface module that generates a design surface, the design surface specifying the application;

a composition logic module that receives the metadata from the policy module and that restrains the design surface to be consistent with the metadata when displaying a representation of the application through the user-interface module; and

an input module that receives a command from a user to manipulate the design surface and that updates the design surface, through the composition logic module, in accordance with the command.

28. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the user-interface module comprises a display interface to a video display device, the video display device showing the design surface to the user.

29. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a compiler module that is coupled to the policy module and that transforms the representation into a set of computer-executable instructions, the set of computer-executable instructions being consistent with the metadata contained in the policy module.

30. **(Original)** The system of claim 29, further comprising:

an execution engine that executes the set of computer-executable instructions.

31. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, further comprising:
a memory that stores software, the software supporting a component, wherein the composition logic module discovers the component and provides a display indicator that is associated with the component.
32. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is co-located with the user-interface module.
33. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is remotely located from the user-interface module.
34. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:
(a) a first data field that contains a first identifier for a first component, the first component being applicable for an application;
(b) a second data field that contains a second identifier for a stage that is associated with the first component; and
(c) a third data field that represents at least one property that is associated with the first component.
35. **(Currently Amended)** The physical computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:
(d) a fourth data field that contains another identifier for another component that is capable of being coupled to the first component.

36. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

- (a) a first data field that contains a first identifier of a first stage for a user-interface;
- (b) a second data field that contains a first indicator that indicates a first position of the first stage within a design surface, the design surface specifying an application;
- (c) a third data field that contains another identifier of another stage for the user-interface; and
- (d) a fourth data field that contains another indicator that indicates a second position of the other stage within the design surface.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The physical computer-readable medium of claim 36, further comprising:

- (e) a fifth data field that contains an processing indicator that indicates an ordering of a plurality of components that are associated with the first stage.

38. **(Original)** A method for designing an application, comprising:
- (a) receiving metadata that is contained in a policy;
 - (b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy, the user-interface supporting a design surface and a toolbox with a plurality of available components;
 - (c) creating a representation of the application, the representation having at least one stage, each stage having at least one component selected from the plurality of available components by a user;
 - (d) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy;
and
 - (e) in response to (d), executing a set of computer-executable instructions.